THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Planning Commission has considered a Special Package for Drought Mitigation in the Bundelkhand regions of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for providing assistance to the districts covered under the region.

Drought situation in the country

905. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to tackle the drought situation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to erratic behaviour of South-West Monsoon, 2009, in all 12 States have declared drought/scarcity/drought like situation in 301 districts in the country. Steps taken by the Government to reduce the impact of drought situation in the country, *inter-alia*, include release of a sum of Rs. 4073.785 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, subject to adjustment of 75% of the balance available with the States under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF); release of central share of instalment under CRF to the tune of Rs. 1990.3275 crores, which is 75% of the State's quota; Diesel subsidy and additional power from the central pool to save the standing crop in the farmers' field; raised the distribution subsidy for the certified seeds, relaxed the age limit for seed varieties, allowed distribution of minikits and use of Truthfully Labelled (TL) Seeds under the Government programme; issued advisories and sent experts from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to the affected States to enable taking up of alternate crop strategy in the sowing failed/unsown areas and early Rabi.

Shortfall in agriculture production

†906. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far the drought conditions in different drought affected districts have been neutralized by the delayed monsoon this year; and

(b) how far the agricultural yield is likely to fall short of the targets and a comparison of the yield with the yield of past three seasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government of India has taken various measures to neutralize impending situation of delayed monsoon which, *inter-alia*, are constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

review the condition and take appropriate decisions to counter the impact of deficit rainfall; proving assistance to the States to salvage the standing Kharif crops through providing additional power, diesel subsidy, etc.; increasing the area under Rabi cultivation to compensate for likely loss in Kharif; increasing upper ceiling of distribution subsidy on certified seeds under Government of India programmes; providing assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the affected States for agriculture input subsidy and other relief measures etc; and regular review with all concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments. Central Teams have visited drought affected States and based on their recommendations, the Government has approved a total assistance of Rs. 4073.785 crore from NCCF so far and also released Rs. 1990.3275 crore to these States as the Central Government's share under CRF. The assistance provided from NCCF as well as CRF includes assistance to be provided to farmers including small and marginal farmers affected by drought.

(b) 1. Being less rainfall year the 1st Advance production Estimate for major Kharif Crops have been reported less by States, Situation may improve in subsequent estimates.

2. Yield comparison statement for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 1st Advance Estimates (2009-10) is as follow:—

Crops	Yield (Kg/hectare)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Rice	2086	2278	2081	1970
Coarse Cereals	1144	1410	1357	1109
Other Kharif Pulses	449	557	382	268

Impact of drought

907. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of the drought on farm sector in the country is not as bad as has been expected earlier by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the farm sector to deal with the drought situation in the country; and

(d) the extent to which the farm sector has been benefited so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The erratic and irregular monsoon behaviour in the Kharif season resulted in reduction in area coverage of Kharif crops, especially of rice to an extent of 6 million hectares. During Kharif season, Ministry played a proactive role and had constantly monitored the progress of rainfall/sowing of Kharif crops in consultation with States and other relevant Ministries. Technical